

Message Text

SECRET

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14

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-13 AGRE-00 OES-06

ACDA-07 /110 W

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R 012048Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8071

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 7823

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, CI, AR

SUBJECT: PRES. VIDELA'S VISIT TO CHILE

REF: SANTIAGO 11354

1. WE WISH TO RECORD OUR CONCURRENCE WITH THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN SANTIAGO'S EXCELLENT ANALYSIS IN REFTEL OF ARGENTINE PRESIDENT VIDELA'S VISIT TO CHILE. ARGENTINE DIPLOMATS IN SANTIAGO ARE EXPRESSING SAME GENERAL VIEWS OF VISIT FROM ARGENTINE POINT OF VIEW WHICH ARE BEING EXPRESSED HERE. EVEN ARGENTINE PRESS MADE EFFORT TO POINT OUT DURING AND AFTER VISIT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CHILEAN AND ARGENTINE SITUATIONS, WHICH NEEDLESS TO SAY LEFT ARGENTINA IN MORE FAVORABLE LIGHT.

2. VERY HIGH OFFICIAL OF PRESIDENCY TOLD EMBOFF IN CONFIDENCE THAT PRES. VIDELA WAS UNFAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY PRES. PINOCHET. VIDELA REPORTEDLY SAID THAT PINOCHET WAS "OBSESSED" BY ANTI-COMMUNISM AND COULD NOT STOP TALKING ABOUT IT. GOA IN OUR JUDGMENT SHARES GENERAL ARGENTINE VIEW THAT "PINOCHET GOVERNMENT" REPRESENTS TOO EXTREME REACTION, CRUDE AND UNSOPHISTICATED IN COMPARISON TO

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THEIR OWN APPROACH. "PINOCHETISMO" IS A PERJORATIVE TERM

HERE, AND AT LEAST SO LONG AS VIDELA IS PRESIDENT, GOA WILL
CONTINUE TO DO ITS BEST TO KEEP GOC AT ARMS LENGTH IN THE
PUBLIC IMAGE, WHILE EXPLOITING SECURITY COOPERATION (I.E.
ANTI-SUBVERSION) AND ECONOMIC LINKS TO MOST.
CHAPLIN

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